

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01387 221855Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 INR-07 IGA-02 EB-08

OES-06 MMO-01 /055 W

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R 221622Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4206

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN INTEREST IN RETURN OF PEACE CORPS UNDER  
DIFFERENT NAME

1. FOREIGN MINISTER, AIR FORCE GENERAL ADRIAZOLA, TOLD ME EVENING FEBRUARY 18 THAT GOB INTERESTED HAVING PEACE CORPS RETURN TO BOLIVIA BUT UNDER DIFFERENT NAME. SAID GOB WOULD OFFER FULL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND HIS DISCUSSION WITH ME REPRESENTED FORMAL GOVERNMENT INTEREST NOT THAT OF ONE OFFICIAL OR ONE AGENCY. SAID IMPORTANT TO OUTLINE EXACT ROLE WHICH HE INDICATED GOB PREFERRED BE IN FIELD OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATING WITH NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE, A DEPENDENCY OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND CAMPESINO AFFAIRS. SAID VOLUNTEERS SHOULD NOT WORK ON PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECTS TO AVOID SUSPICIONS OF INVOLVEMENT IN FAMILY PLANNING WHICH WAS FALSE ISSUE RAISED AGAINST PEACE CORPS BEFORE AND IS PROBLEM NOW WITH CHURCH HIERACHY.

2. I MENTIONED PEACE CORPS ACTUALLY NOT PART OF ACTION, COMBINING FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ENTITIES. MINISTER SAID IT WOULD BE EXCELLENT IF VOLUNTEERS COULD COME UNDER NAME ACTION, NOT PEACE CORPS.

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3. SEEMS TO ME FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ARTICULATED GOB POSITIONS WHICH MEET ALL OF MY CONDITIONS FOR RETURN OF VOLUNTEERS. IN ADDITION, I HAVE ALWAYS HELD THAT GOB SHOULD MAKE SPONTANEOUS REQUEST OF ITS OWN AND NOT BE STIMULATED BY INTERESTED PARTIES TO DO SO. WHETHER THIS IS THE CASE CANNOT EASILY OR READLY BE DETERMINED. I SUSPECT THAT THERE HAS

BEEN SOME OUTSIDE ENCOURAGEMENT BUT I WOULD BE PREPARED TO OVERLOOK THAT IF OTHER REQUIREMENTS ARE MET, E.G. CONFINED TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN AGRUCULTURE, LIMITED NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS AND NO SUPERSTRUCTURE. RE LAST POINT, I BELIEVE VOLUNTEERS COULD BE ADMINISTRATIVELY SUPPORTED BY AID AND COULD BE SUPERVISED BY RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION WHICH HAS ACTIVE PROGRAM WITH NCDS. ALSO BELIEVE HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT THEY BE STATIONED IN THE YUNGAS AND CHAPARE WHERE A RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION IS LOOKING INTO FELT NEEDS OR AREA. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES COULD MESH IN WITH COCA CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER AND TO TELL HIM

THAT US IS DISPOSED TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY GOB WRITTEN REQUEST FOR THE RETURN OF VOLUNTEERS UNDER BANNER OF ACCION (OR ACTION) NOT PEACH CORPS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH NCDS IN RURAL AREA.

5. IF WE THEN GET NOTE, I PROPOSE DEPARTMENT TAKE UP REQUEST WITH PEACE CORPS AND PUT DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL SQUARELY ON CONDITION THAT NUMBER VOLUNTEERS BE LIMITED, WORK ONLY IN AGRICULTURE, AND BE ADMINISTERED AND SUPERVISED BY AID. I HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THIS WITH USAID HERE.

6. ABOVE DRAFTED BY AMBASSADOR STEDMAN.  
BEAL

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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